

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

1. - 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A method comprising:

- a) receiving packets through a plurality of switching planes;
- b) identifying a packet sequence number for a last received in-sequence packet;
- c) identifying highest packet sequence number for packets received through each of the plurality of switching planes; and
- d) determining at least one of the plurality of switching planes to unstop based upon the packet sequence number for the last received in-sequence packet number and the highest sequence number for at least one of the plurality of switching planes.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further including

- e) comparing number of packets temporarily stored in a buffer with a predefined threshold value.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the at least one of the plurality of switching planes is determined only if the number of packets stored in the buffer is equal or greater than a predefined threshold value.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein c) includes comparing the last received in-sequence packet number with the highest sequence number for each of the plurality of switching planes.

15. - 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The method of Claim 11 further including releasing from the at least one of the plurality of switching planes so determined, at least one packet whose sequence number is next to the last received in-sequence packet number.